

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, February 9. 1712.

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**T**HIS is an unhappy Time, when the Errors of Nations, as well as Men, rise up in Judgment against them; few I believe that knew these Things before, believed that they should ever be thus known; and few of those who hear them now, could ever have persuaded themselves to believe such Things possible, as the Parliament has now set their Authority to the Publication of; I mean as to the Deficiency of the Quota's of our Allies; but the Day is come, when, according to our Saviour's Prediction, *what is done in Secret shall be declar'd on the House top.*

For my part, had I known all this to be

true, I would never have made it publick; I am sorry it is publick now, and much more for this Reason, *viz.* That I fear too much of it is true; but since the Parliament has made it publick, and we have it under their Hands, we must therefore take it for granted that it is all true; the sad Accounts at large, we find in the Resolves of the House, Printed in the Votes this Day, *viz.* That all our Allies have kept back their own Shares of Men, Ships, and Money, and have laid the Labouring Oar of the War upon us; I cannot but make a few short Remarks upon it, and I doubt not but every honest Man's Hand will be with me in it.

J. H.

1. It is high Time that we either put an End to the War, or that all the Allies oblige themselves to carry it on with us on a more equal Foot.

2. I do not wonder at all, that the Emperors, or indeed any of our Allies, have all along been very willing to carry on the War, or to put it right, to have us carry on the War.

I am as tender of making Reflections upon the *STATES GENERAL*, as any Man living, and I say now, as I profess'd before, that I believe the getting good Terms in a Peace, the Successful carrying on the War, the Advantage of *England*, and the Safety of the Protestant Religion, either in the Treaty or in the War, depends entirely upon the Maintaining a good Understanding between the *British* and *Dutch* Nations: I shall therefore consider these Things, rather as they respect the other Confederates, than the *States-General*, these being more likely and more able to make up any Mistake, if it be committed, than the rest: But Property begets Affection, preserving the several Interests of the two Nations, and by just Dealings with each other, a maintaining an Equality in Property and Proportion, is the only Way to preserve the good Understanding between us — To put Hardships upon one another, to fall off from Agreements, or not to perform them when made, *which is the same Thing*; this destroys Property, and that Affection: To have two Nations delude, deceive, or defraud one another, is to make it impossible they should serve or assist, much less love one another's Interest.

We have now the Parliament very busie, upon Examining the Quota's and Payments of the Troops and Money, the Proportion of Ships and Men, which the Confederates were to furnish, and how the same were furnish'd; and they are come to 11 Resolutions, in all which, they find *England* Impos'd upon by her Confederates; her Charge encreas'd, theirs lessen'd; her

Contingents great, and theirs small, and which is worse, those small ones not comply'd with.

To whom then do we owe the Continuance of this War? And in short, to whom do we owe many Mischiefs more, which had the War been at an End some Years ago, perhaps had never happen'd? I'll state it as clear as I can, and with as little Reflection as possible; but really this is not a Time to be silent, or to be backward to speak plain. The Grand Alliance was a Confederacy of such Powers, as might well have Encourag'd any one to believe, that the *French King* must have sunk under the Weight of it; the Quota's of Ships and Troops so great, and encreas'd by Augmentations to such a degree, the King of *France*, had he not depended upon the Parties not performing their parts, would not have been so weak to have undertaken a War against them; I would desire any considering Man but to look back upon two or three Heads; the Emperor's Quota was 90000 Men, so that what one observes very well on that Head, all the New Emperor proposes, is but to make good for the Time to come, what the Old Ones ought to have done for the Time past; the Troops of the Empire besides these, were to be 80000 Men — Had both these Articles been comply'd with, had the Emperor brought those 90000 Men down, either into *Italy* or to the *Rhine*, what had been the Consequence? Had not the War been at an End long ago? Had not *France* long since given you whatever you had demanded? Whose then is the Fault, that *France* has not been Reduc'd? Where may we look for a Reason why the Peace has not been made? And yet this Emperor is the Man who stickles so hard to have the War continu'd.

Now I shall say nothing here to the Treaty of Peace, for which those Things are but too good an Argument, but methinks it is so good a Reply to the Plenipotentiaries of those Princes who are for carrying on the War, when they shall press us to it, that I cannot think any one would desire



desire of us not to give it for an Answer in some Words like these. *Messieurs, If ye resolve to refuse the Peace, and insist upon the Queen of Great Britain's carrying the War on, according to her Alliances, we must be content — But two Things we must Demand.*

1. Pay us the Ballance due for our Share of Money, and for your Deficiency of Troops, &c. formerly Agreed to be supply'd, and which has not been supply'd by your Masters, for so many Years past, and we will Agree to carry on the War.
2. Give us some Assistance that your full Quota of Troops, with their necessary Magazines, Stores, Train, &c. shall be fairly, and *bona fide*, furnished, and ready to Act in Season for the Time to come.

Whoever he is that would have us carry on the War upon any other Foot than this, I confess I cannot Understand him, and would be glad some of our Wise Politicians, who daily Encourage us to carry on the War, would prescribe some Way how it shall be Rational for us to carry it on; without these Things.

As to Enquiries into the former Conduct of Things, from whence those Evils have proceeded, I have nothing to do; I believe Remonstrances, Representations, and Complaints from hence, have not been wanting; to say, that then we should not have exceeded in our Payments, is to talk like an Unhappy Married Couple, who fell out thus; The Husband, it seems, was an Idle, Extravagant, Drunken Fellow, and left all the Care of the Family upon the Wife — She Quarrels him, and Complains of it, but finding no Amendment, truly, says she, you shall not spend all the Money and enjoy all the Pleasure, if it must go, I'll have some part in it — And so she falls to Gossiping and Spending as fast as he — And the End was short, the Shop was ne-

glected, the Children Starv'd, the Creditors came and seiz'd all, and so the Family was undone.

Should the *English* Government have said, the Emperor does so and so, the *Portuguese* him and him, the *Dutch* excuse themselves, and no-body brings in their full Quota, truly we will not carry on the War by ourselves; if ye will not perform, neither will we, and so have abated in Proportion as others did, What would have been the Consequence but this? — That as now for want of our Allies Performing, the War is not ended, or the Enemy Reduc'd — So then for want of our over-doings, the Enemy had been Victorious, and we had all been Reduc'd.

So that I do not see what the Managers of the Government could do before, more than they did, except you will say they might have made Peace — Which the present Ministry say is the only Way, and if the Allies do not like it, they must look back on the Way they have carried on the War, and see who they have to blame for it; wherefore the Business is to take New Measures for the future.

Can any Man wonder why the War in *Portugal* has been no better carried on, if we have paid for 13000 Men there, and the King Engag'd to maintain 15000 of his own, and one half of them has never been rais'd? — Can any Man wonder that K. *Charles III.* has been so often driven back to the very Walls of *Barcelona*, when all his Father and Brother ever did for him, till within these few Months, Amassed but to one Regiment of 2000 Men? Can any Man wonder that nothing has been done upon the *Rhine*, that the *French* have had Leisure to bring all their Men down from thence into *Flanders*, when of 90000 Men which was the Quota Agreed on for the Emperor, the *Rhine*, *Italy* and *Flanders*, put all together, except those Employ'd on their Secret Expeditions, hardly have produc'd one Third part of that Number that have been brought into the Field?

I hope the use of this shall be only to quicken the Allies to a more entire Union among themselves, and a greater Diligence, if a Good Peace be not the Issue of the present Treaty, that the War may be carried on after a better manner than it has been, I mean as to dolag Justice to one another.

## ERRATA.

Review N<sup>o</sup> 125. pag. 1. col. 2. l. 3. for Sir Oliver, Sir Bradham, Sir Drum, r. Sirs Oliver, &c. l. 4. for Sirs r. Sirs.

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